Establishing a
Fully Integrated National
Food Safety System

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Current Challenges to Ensuring a Safe Food Supply

- Globalization

- Economic adulteration / intentional contamination

- Shifting demographics

- Changing consumption patterns

Current Challenges for the Food Safety System

- Lack of resources

- Outdated laws

- Insufficient strategic planning

- Inadequate coordination across multiple agencies and jurisdictions

Federal Priority on Improving Food Safety

- Supported by President Obama and White House Food Safety Working Group
- Industry, consumers and experts are in general agreement
- State/local food safety regulators have been calling for greater integration since 1998
- Congress calling for similar improvements

Vision for the Future

Focus on **preventing** foodborne illness by:

- – Developing prevention-oriented standards
- – Responding rapidly and effectively
- – Ensuring optimal use of all available resources, which means:

Building an integrated national food safety system

Build on Current Work

- Food Protection Plan (from FSWG) as a foundation

- August 2008 50-State Meeting → Partnership for Food Protection Work Groups began

- Information sharing

- Contracts, grants and cooperative agreements
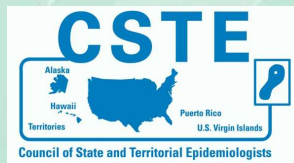
- Training and certification

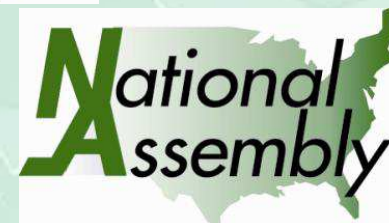# Integrated National Food Safety System
Key Objectives

- Develop standards to ensure consistency

- Train and certify a highly skilled workforce

- Work across jurisdictions to ensure protection of the entire food supply from farm to table

- Create mechanisms for data sharing

- Ensure use of quality systems

- Build oversight and accountability

Supporting a Common Vision

Federal, State and Local partners are joining forces to refine and implement a shared vision for an integrated food safety system.

Relationship of the Partnership for Food Protection and Integrated Food Safety System

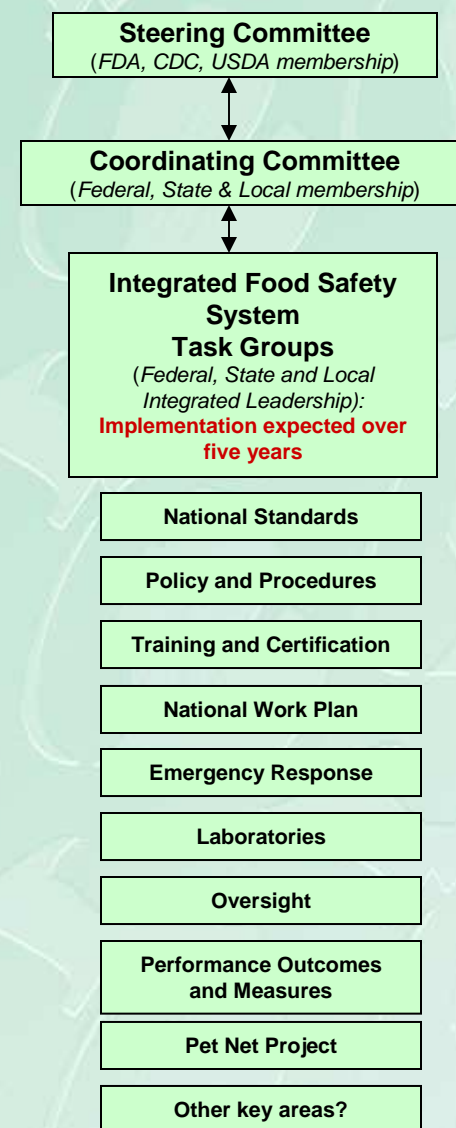| PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
Partnership for Food Protection Work Groups	**Partnership for Food Protection Work Groups and Integrated Food Safety System Task Groups**	**Integrated Food Safety System Task Groups**

PAST

Steering Committee
(*FDA, CDC, USDA membership*)

↕

Coordinating Committee
(*Federal, State & Local membership*)

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Partnership for Food Protection Work Groups
(*State and Local leadership; Federal, State and Local membership*)**:**
Work Groups to complete initial projects by August 2010

- Information Technology
- Training
- Risk-Based Workplanning
- Response
- Pet Net Project

PRESENT

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Integrated Food Safety System Task Groups
(*Focus on building FDA infrastructure to support an Integrated Food Safety System*)**:**
Implementation expected over five years

- National Standards
- Policy and Procedures
- Training and Certification
- National Work Plan
- Emergency Response
- Laboratories
- Oversight
- Performance Outcomes and Measures

FUTURE

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Integrated Food Safety System Task Groups
(*Federal, State and Local Integrated Leadership*):
Implementation expected over five years

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- Laboratories
- Oversight
- Performance Outcomes and Measures
- Pet Net Project
- Other key areas?

National Standards

- **Outcome:** Uniform inspectional coverage and sample collection and analysis to enable greater use of each other's analysis and observations in protecting public health through:
  - Expansion of Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards and Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards
  - Creating shared data standards to enable exchange of enforcement data among public health and regulatory partners
  - IT interconnectivity between Federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial public health and regulatory partners

Program Standards

1. Regulatory Foundation
2. Training Program
3. Inspection Program
4. Inspection Audit Program
5. Food-related Illness & Food Terrorism Preparedness and Response
6. Compliance and Enforcement Program
7. Industry and Community Relations
8. Program Resources
9. Program Assessment
10. Laboratory Support

Standards as a
Program Framework

- Standards provide:
  - A guide to design and management of a manufactured food regulatory program
  - A program foundation
  - A tool to evaluate the effectiveness of food safety interventions
  - Best Practices of a high quality Manufactured Foods Regulatory program

National Work Plan

- **Outcome:** Improve targeting of resources and expand inspections and sample collection coverage by:

  - Developing a process to work with all regulatory and public heath partners to create an approach for the ranking of food categories by public health risk

  - Developing a national work plan for food/feed inspections and sample collections and analysis

Training and Certification Program

- **Outcome:** High level of scientific quality in data collection and inspections and consistent best-practice approaches and capacity across state and local agencies by:
  - Implementing a national food safety training system that provides the knowledge and skills to regulators and public heath partners at all levels of the government in a timely and efficient manner
  - Implementing a national certification system to help assure both comparable and competent performance of staff at all levels of government

Laboratory Program

- **Outcome:** Consistent and meaningful data for compliance, surveillance, and environmental samples by:
  - Developing a national laboratory proficiency testing program
  - Creating shared data standards to enable the exchange of public health and agricultural laboratory data
  - Utilizing quality systems in all laboratory functions

Response

- **Outcome:** Coordinated, faster and more effective response to food safety events by:
  - Increasing cooperative agreements to fund Rapid Response Teams and FERN labs to integrate an all-hazards response capability
  - Working with the Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak Response (CIFOR) to implement guidelines for multi-jurisdictional outbreaks
  - Strengthening capacity for state and local disease surveillance and detection
  - Developing a system for rapid analysis and integration of consumer complaints and other data sources to facilitate early detection and response to food problems

Program Oversight

- **Outcome:** Maintain program credibility by:
  - Measuring performance against the program standards
  - Auditing inspections, investigations, sample collections and analysis, enforcement, response, recovery, and outreach activities of regulatory partners

What is necessary for success?

- Support from stakeholders

- Engagement from partners

- Multi-year investment
  - Federal   - Local   - Territorial
  - State   - Tribal

- Information sharing infrastructure

Summary of the Change

- Build on current collaborations

- Provide stronger, more uniform coverage from farm to table

- Maintain credibility through oversight

- Sustain public health infrastructure through multi-year investment

Outcome: *Reduced incidence of foodborne illness*

Implications for MDA

Potential to increase / maintain food, feed and RRT federal funding by:

- Participating in national integration efforts
- Meeting retail and manufacturing standards
    - Keeping laws current
    - Training and certifying staff
    - Using nationally recognized risk-based inspection approaches
    - Improving quality assurance systems, including continued integration with local health accreditation systems
    - Lab accreditation
    - Maintaining and increasing food, feed, lab and emergency response program resources, including local health food programs